U.S. help in space research

*229. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. was eager to help India in all ways in space research; and

(b) if so, the new programme proposed in space technology with co-operation of the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding exists providing for co-operation between the two countries in the field of space research.

(b) The programmes are in the area of earth and atomspheric sciences.

Kailash Mansarover Yatra *via* Kathmandu

*230. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some NRIs are luring the Indians for taking Kailash Mansarover Yatra *via* Kathmandu route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Indians have already undertaken Mansarover Yatra during the last two years through some NRIs *via* Kathmandu route;

(d) if so, the number of such pilgrims and whether Government's permission was obtained; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Government has not received reports to this effect. Some Nepali travel agents organize tours from Kathmandu fc . .ple of all nationalities including from India to undertake the Kailash Mansarover Yatra. Government's permission is not required for Indian citizens to undertake the Kailash Mansarover Yatra *via* Kathmandu.